

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
17 March 2005 (17.03.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/023988 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: C12N 5/00, 5/02

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2004/029007

(22) International Filing Date:

3 September 2004 (03.09.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

60/500,049 4 September 2003 (04.09.2003) US

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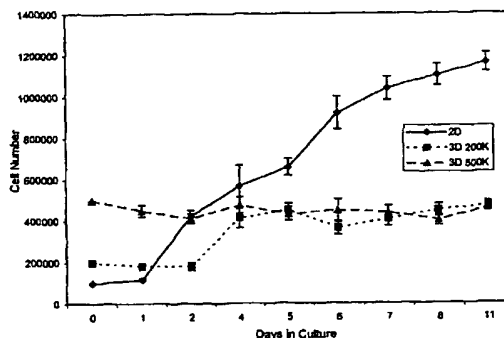
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: MODULATION OF CELL INTRINSIC STRAIN TO CONTROL MATRIX SYNTHESIS, SECRETION, ORGANIZATION AND REMODELING



Growth curves for avian internal fibroblasts grown in 2-D polystyrene culture dishes covalently bonded with type I collagen and BATs plated at 200K or 500K cells in collagen gels in Tissue Train culture plates. Cells in 2-D cultures entered log phase and passed through several division cycles whereas cells in 3-D gels plated at 200K cells per gel divided once and those plated at 500K cells per gel did not divide.

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides methods for manipulating the intrinsic strain of cells by treating tissue engineered constructs or native tissue with compounds which affect the intrinsic strain setpoint of the cells in order to modulate matrix synthesis, secretion, organization and/or remodeling so that the tissues withstand in vivo mechanical forces and have the structural characteristics of host tissue which has been permanently altered by injury, atrophy or disease. The compounds include binding site peptides, ATP, UTP and related analogues, IL-1 $\beta$ , TGF- $\beta$ , cytochalasin D, hyaluronic acid, nocodazole and others. Also provided are methods for applying a mechanical external strain to the tissues, as well as methods for modulating the expression of cytoskeletal genes that transcribe cytoskeletal proteins which regulate a cell's intrinsic strain setpoint.



**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**(88) Date of publication of the international search report:**  
30 June 2005